

1 **In the Claims**

2 Claims 38-44, 50 and 51 were previously canceled without prejudice.

3 Claim 45 was previously amended.

4 Claims 45-49 remain in the application and are listed below:

5
6 1.-37. (Canceled).

7
8 38.-44. (Canceled).

9
10 45. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

11 receiving a content request from a content requester;

12 retrieving the requested content from a content source;

13 processing the retrieved content to provide an abstract content model

14 comprising a directional graph featuring a top-down hierarchical structure having

15 nodes that represent components of the content and edges that represent

16 relationships between the nodes, the nodes being configured to have a node status

17 that defines dynamic statuses of nodes during content delivery, the node statuses

18 being selected from a group of statuses comprising: (1) inactive status where the

19 node is not yet a deliverable object, (2) activable status wherein an active

20 condition of the node is satisfied but the node is not yet included in a delivery

21 plan, (3) activated status wherein the node has been chosen in a delivery plan, (4)

22 delivered status wherein the node has been delivered successfully to a content

23 receiver, and (5) skipped status wherein the node is not delivered and will not be

24 included in the delivery plan; and wherein there are multiple different types of

25 edges selected from a group of types comprising: (1) a dependency edge type that

1 defines a logical dependency between nodes, (2) a route edge type that defines an
2 ordered or hierarchical dependency between nodes, and (3) a mixed edge type that
3 defines a logical dependency between nodes and an ordered or hierarchical
4 dependency between nodes;

5 processing the abstract content model to select an optimal delivery plan the
6 use of which will permit requested content to be delivered to the content requester;
7 and

8 processing the abstract content model to provide deliverable content in
9 accordance with the selected delivery plan, wherein the abstract content model
10 comprises an ignition edge that is defined as a dependency edge from a node that
11 is activated, delivered or skipped, wherein nodes can have output behaviors that
12 define how nodes on ends of outgoing route edges can be branched in accordance
13 with a branching operation, where a branched node constitutes a node that has
14 been changed from an activable node to an activated node.

15
16 46. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein there are multiple
17 different branching operations.

18
19 47. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein one of the multiple
20 different branching operations comprises a complementary branching operation
21 wherein all activable nodes can be branched.

22
23 48. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein one of the multiple
24 different branching operations comprises an exclusive branching operation
25 wherein only one node from all activable nodes can be branched.

1
2 49. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein one of the multiple
3 different branching operations comprises a tight branching operation wherein all
4 activable nodes must be branched.

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6 50.-51 (Canceled)

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8 52.-62. (Canceled)